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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5962
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4039
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A./CDC/MR
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ENDORSE EXCEPTIONS ☐
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5B or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4659

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMDIS/NOFORN

SUBJECT: ELECTION EVE COMMENTS ON KIEN GIANG, VINH BINH, AND VINH LONG

MICROFILMED BY BS/G

1. ON ELECTION EVE IN KIEN GIANG AND VINH BINH REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES REPEATING CHARGES OF ELECTION FOUL PLAY BUT SO FAR HAVE PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE. FEW SUCH ALLEGATIONS HEARD IN VINH LONG. IN KIEN GIANG AND VINH LONG VIGOROUS HUONG ORGANIZATION WILL PRODUCE GOOD VOTE FOR HUONG WHO MIGHT

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 4659 C O N F I D E N T I A L
EVEN CARRY VINH LONG. VINH BINH SITUATION AMBIGUOUS; LARGE CAMBODIAN POPULATION OUGHT TO CARRY PROVINCE FOR THIEU/KY, BUT PROVINCE CHIEF LT.COL. QUI IS NEPHEW OF HUONG. QUI SAYS HE SUPPORTS HUONG AND HAS BEEN TRAVELING WIDELY IN PROVINCE LAST FEW DAYS BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR FOR WHAT PURPOSE. IF HE HAS BEEN WORKING ACTIVELY FOR HUONG, VINH BINH OUTCOME COULD ALSO BE IN

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DOUBT.

2. IN KIEN GIANG, LY THANH LE, REPRESENTATIVE OF TRAN VAN HUONG, WRITES OFF RURAL VOTE BLAMING GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT OF HIS CAMPAIGN WORKERS. HE HAS PRODUCED NO PROOF AND HIMSELF IS WELL PLACED IN KIEN GIANG ESTABLISHMENT. LE SAYS HIS STRATEGY IS TO CONCENTRATE ON TOWNFOLK. HIS PREDICTION OF OUTCOME IS THIEU-HUONG TIE AT 30 PER CENT OF TOTAL PROVINCE VOTE EACH. OTHER OPPOSITION FIGURES IN KIEN GIANG CHARGE THAT VARIOUS PRO-HUONG SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED OR OTHERWISE HARASSED. THEY ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE NAMES OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY SO TREATED BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY

PAGE 3 RUMSIP 4659 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THE CHARGES.

3. FEW COMPLAINTS OF HARASSMENT TO BE HEARD FROM HUONG SUPPORTERS IN HIS BIRTHPLACE, VINH LONG. THEY APPEAR CONFIDENT HUONG WILL CARRY VINH LONG, ALTHOUGH AS IN KIEN GIANG THEY ARE DEPENDING ON URBAN NOT RURAL VOTE. HUONG LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SAYS HE HAS HEARD REPORTS HIS CAMPAIGN WORKERS HARASSED BUT WHEN HE TRIED TO VERIFY ALLEGATIONS, "NO ONE WOULD TELL ME ANYTHING." MANY CAMPAIGN WORKERS RELUCTANT TO WORK IN RURAL AREAS FOR FEAR OF VC.

4. VINH LONG DEPUTY FOR ADMINISTRATION OPENLY FAVORS HUONG WHILE PROVINCE CHIEF IS A THIEU/KY MAN. DEPUTY FOR ADMINISTRATION SAYS HE HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT IMPARTIALITY OF PROVINCE CHIEF BUT IS NOT SO SURE OF SOME DISTRICT CHIEFS. THERE MAY BE MANY PEOPLE WITH MORE THAN ONE VOTING CARD, HE SAID, PROBABLY DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE MIXUP AND NOT DELIBERATE ATTEMPT AT VOTE RIGGING.

5. VINH BINH OF INTEREST BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS CHARGES BY HUONG SUPPORTERS OF UNFAIR PLAY DESPITE FACT PROVINCE CHIEF IS NEPHEW OF HUONG. SOME THIEU/KY SUPPORTERS IN VINH BINH SAY THEY KNOW PROVINCE CHIEF REALLY SUPPORTS GVN SLATE BUT

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PAGE 4 RUMJIR 4659 C O N F I D E N T I A L
HE SAYS NOT. LARGE CAMBODIAN POPULATION, PERHAPS MAJORITY OF PROVINCE TOTAL, WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW THIEU/KY, AS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY LOCAL CAMBODIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP INDICATE, UNLESS PROVINCE CHIEF HAS BEEN WORKING FOR HUONG VERY HARD.

6. COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM IN JUDGING CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES OF FOUL PLAY EXEMPLIFIED INCASE OF VINH BINH'S LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET CANDIDATE HA THUC KY. RDV REPRESENTATIVE ALSO SIGNED LETTER RECOMMENDING PRIME MINISTER KY AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LAST JUNE ON INVITATION OF NGUYEN THIEN NHON, WHO IS REPORTED TO BE ACTING AS THIEU/KY CAMPAIGN AGENT IN SEVERAL DELTA PROVINCES AND IS ALLEGED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF RUMORED PRESSURE. RDV REPRESENTATIVE SAYS HE SIGNED LETTER ENTIRELY OF OWN VOLITION, HOWEVER, "BECAUSE I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THUS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER."

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